Principles of Microeconomics  
(ECO 2023-03, Spring 2004)

Professor: Tim Sass  
Office: 269 Bellamy  
Phone: 644-7087  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., and by appointment  
E-mail: tsass@coss.fsu.edu  
Webpage: http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~tsass

Course Overview: Microeconomics studies the choices individuals make and how those choices are affected by external factors. Emphasis is placed on how prices affect consumption decisions and the choices of price and output by firms. By the end of the course students should be able to analyze common policy issues (excise taxes, minimum wage laws, rent controls, etc.) as well as "everyday" economic phenomena, like department store sale strategies, using economic tools. Students should also be prepared to take intermediate level microeconomics.

This is a bundled package that includes a copy of the lecture notes and a study guide.

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 2:00-3:15 104 Moore Auditorium

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9:30-11:00. These hours are reserved for students, so do not hesitate drop in without an appointment and spend as much of this time as you need getting help. If you would like to meet with me at other times of the day, please let me know ahead of time.

Help Desk: There is a help desk for students in this course staffed by graduate students from the Economics Department. Location and times will be announced.

E-mail: Feel free to send e-mail to me at tsass@coss.fsu.edu. I am very conscientious about replying to e-mail; you will generally get a prompt reply. Also, please check the course web site and your email on a regular basis for announcements. Class emails will be sent to your garnet account. If you normally use a non-FSU email account you will need to forward your mail. See https://cars.acns.fsu.edu/CARS/account_maintenance.html

Web Page: The course web page is available on the blackboard system. To log in go to: https://campus.fsu.edu/webapps/login. The web site's features are described in detail later in the syllabus.
Grading: There will be two midterms (25% each), quizzes (20% in total) and a comprehensive final exam (30%). There will be a total of 5 quizzes. The worst score of the five will be thrown out. Therefore each quiz will count 5 percent of your total grade. Your final grade will depend solely on the total points you receive on the exams and quizzes. There is no extra credit work available to compensate for poor exam scores. Grades are based on a student's performance relative to the class average. The grading scale (expressed in percentages of the average score) is as follows:

- A = 130% or more
- A- = 125-129.9%
- B+ = 120-124.9%
- B = 110-119.9%
- B- = 105-109.9%
- C+ = 100-104.9%
- C = 90-99.9%
- C- = 85-89.9%
- D+ = 80-84.9%
- D = 75-79.9%
- F = less than 75%

Midterms/Quizzes: The midterms will consist solely of multiple-choice questions and are based on material presented in lecture. Sample midterm questions (and answers) are provided in the course packet and on the class web page. Quizzes will be primarily short-answer questions. Problem sets relating to material for each quiz are available in the course packet. Answers to the problem sets will be gone over in class prior to each quiz. Dates for the midterms and quizzes are given below.

Final Exam: The economics department no longer requires all principles sections to administer a common final exam. Although the final exam will be administered during the "block final" time for ECO 2023, your final exam will be written by me and will be different than the common final. Your final exam is comprehensive, covering all of the material presented in class. The date and time for the final exam are given below.

Make-Ups: If you anticipate a conflict with a quiz or midterm, let me know in advance. You can contact me via email anytime or during business hours by phone (if no one answers initially, stay on the line and a secretary will eventually pick up and take a message). In most cases, it is possible to arrange an alternate time for an individual student to take a midterm or quiz. If you miss a quiz or midterm, let me know as soon as possible. If you have a valid reason for missing the exam (e.g. illness) and let me know within 24 hours of the scheduled exam, in most cases it is possible to take the exam at a later time. No separate make-ups for quizzes or exams will be given. If you miss a quiz and do not contact me within 24 hours with a valid reason for missing the quiz then you will receive a zero for that quiz. If you miss a midterm and do not contact me within 24 hours, you may be allowed to count your final exam extra. The "double counting" of the final exam will only be allowed under extraordinary circumstances, however.

A.D.A.: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:
(i) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC);
(ii) bring a letter to the instructor from SDRC indicating that you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.
**Honor Code:** Academic dishonesty as it relates to quizzes and tests in this course will not be allowed in any form. The Academic Honor system of the Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility to:

1. uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work
2. refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity
3. foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility.

Put simply, cheating will not be tolerated. If an instance of academic dishonesty takes place, all students involved will receive a zero for that quiz or exam or one full letter grade reduction in their final grade, whichever is greater.

**Attendance & Conduct:** Attendance is not graded directly. However, since some exam material may not be in the textbook, there tends to be a strong correlation between attendance and performance on the graded exams. When in class, each student is expected to respect the rights of fellow students to learn in the best possible environment. Behavior that restricts the ability of others to learn (eg. talking during lecture or when another student asks a question) will not be tolerated and violators may be asked to leave the classroom. *In respect for other students, turn off all cell phones and pagers before coming to class.*
### Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Scarcity and Competition</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Gains and Costs of Exchange</td>
<td>pp. 28-32, 43-47, 362-367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**First Quiz: Monday, January 26, in class. Covers lectures #1-4**

| 3-4  | Consumer Choice and Demand                     | Chapter 7            |

**Second Quiz: Monday, February 9, in class. Covers lectures #5-7**

| 5-6  | Demand, Supply and Market Equilibrium          | Chapter 3, pp. 92-105 |

**Midterm 1: Monday, February 23, in class. Covers lectures #1-10.**

| 7-8  | The Firm and Costs of Production              | Chapter 8            |

**Third Quiz: Wednesday, March 3, in class. Covers lectures #11-13.**

| 8-9  | Price Takers                                   | Chapter 9            |
| 9-10 | Price Searchers                                | Chapter 10, pp. 254-268 |

**Fourth Quiz: Monday, March 22, in class. Covers lectures #14-17**

| 11-12| Government Intervention in Markets            | pp. 125-126, 269-276 |

**Midterm 2: Monday, April 5, in class. Covers lectures #11-19.**

| 12-13| Labor Markets and Unions                      | Chapters 12, 13      |
| 13   | Present Value and Choice Over Time            | Chapter 14           |

**Fifth Quiz: Monday, April 19, in class. Covers lectures #20-21**

| 14   | Income Distribution                           | Chapter 15           |
| 14   | Property Rights, Externalities and Public Goods | pp. 32-36, 121-125   |

**Final: Tuesday, April 27, 3-5 pm. Covers all lectures, #1-24.**
Course Web Page

The course web page is in the blackboard system. To log on go to https://campus.fsu.edu/webapps/login.

Announcements

Schedule changes or other special announcements will be posted here. Note that you are responsible for all material that is presented in class, including any announcements. I will try to keep the web site announcements current. However, if a schedule change or other announcement is made in class but not posted on the web site that does not relieve you from the responsibility for being aware of the information.

Syllabus

A copy of the course syllabus, including hyperlinks.

Problem Sets

Copies of the five problem sets are available here. Each is keyed to the material you will responsible for on the five quizzes.

Staff Information

Contact information for me and the teaching assistants is listed here.

Communication

You can send e-mail, view/post to the class discussion board and look up classmates on the class roster here.

Student Tools

There are three tools available here: Calendar, Manual and Address Book. The Calendar allows you to keep track of important dates like quizzes and exams. The Manual is a guide to using Blackboard. Using Blackboard is pretty straightforward, but if you run into problems you can get help here. The Address Book allows you to set up a file of contacts, for example other students in the class.

Lectures

The Powerpoint lecture presentations are available here in Powerpoint 97 format. In order to view these lectures you will either need to have PowerPoint installed on your computer or you will need to download and install the free Powerpoint 97 viewer (a link is provided). To view the slides correctly, the viewer needs to be in full-screen mode. Otherwise, the graphs will not appear properly. To advance slides or points use a mouse click. The Powerpoint presentations are not a substitute for attending class. They are intended as outlines only. Students should be prepared to supplement the outlines with notes taken in class.

Sample Exams

Sample midterm and final exams, containing questions from old exams, are provided here.
External Links
This page has links to the Gwartney, Stroup, Sobel and Macpherson text's web site as well as the web sites of some other leading microeconomics principles texts. Each of the textbook has on-line quizzes that you might find helpful if you want additional practice beyond the problem sets. The page also includes a link to various other economics-related material.

Check Grade
All of your quiz and exam scores as well as your current course grade are posted here. To access your scores you will need to fill out a form in which you select a six-digit (no letters) "secret code" and grant permission for the posting of your scores. The forms will be handed out in class on the day of the first quiz. If you miss the first quiz you can pick up a form from me or one of the TAs. As long as you do not reveal your secret code to others, only you will be able to access your scores.